

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1080

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By Mr. Perry of Sandwich, petition of Jeffrey Davis Perry and others for legislation to determine the foundation budget levels for purposes of state education aid. Education.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### PETITION OF:

Jeffrey Davis Perry  
Shirley Gomes  
Susan W. Pope

James B. Eldridge  
Paul Kujawski  
Donald F. Humason, Jr.

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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### AN ACT REFORMING AND CREATING EQUITY IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF STATE EDUCATION AID KNOWN AS CHAPTER 70 FUNDING.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 10 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws is amended by  
2 striking the entire section and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following new sections:—

4 Section 10. Subject to appropriation and notwithstanding the  
5 provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, it is the  
6 intention of General Court to assure adequate and equitable  
7 funding for public schools in the Commonwealth by distributing  
8 State Education Funding, known as “Chapter 70.” It shall also be  
9 the intent of the General Court to determine the necessary cost of  
10 providing students of Regional and Vocational public schools an  
11 adequate education.

12 Section 10a. The Commissioner of Education shall report to  
13 the Secretary of Administration and Finance and the Joint Com-  
14 mittee on Education, Arts and Humanities by January 1st of each  
15 year the calculation of the “Foundation Budget” as authorized by  
16 Section 3 of Chapter 70 of the Massachusetts General Laws. For  
17 each school district in each municipality, regional school district,  
18 and for each independent vocational school in the commonwealth,

19 there shall be a foundation budget which shall be calculated to  
20 ensure an adequate level of funding to provide education services  
21 as determined by the Department of Education. The amount of  
22 aid paid to each non-regional and non-vocation district shall be  
23 identified separately for each municipality that is a member of the  
24 district.

25 Section 10b. The factors which shall be used to determine  
26 Commonwealth share education funding, known as “Chapter 70”  
27 shall be determined by a “formula” calculated as follows:

28 1) A minimum “Base Aid” of \$1,500.00 per student. The Com-  
29 missioner of Education shall determine the student population of  
30 each school district on an annual basis.

31 2) An adjustment factor known as “Median Income Adjust-  
32 ment” shall be calculated based upon the median family income  
33 per district. The factor shall be calculated by subtracting the local  
34 municipality’s median family income as determined by the Massa-  
35 chusetts Department of Revenue, from the Commonwealth’s  
36 average family median income as determined by the Massachu-  
37 setts Department of Revenue, then multiplying the difference by  
38 the total student population of the district as determined by the  
39 Department of Education, then dividing by a factor of ten.

40 3) An adjustment factor known as “Local District’s Ability to  
41 Pay Adjustment” shall be calculated based upon the total taxable  
42 property per district. The total taxable property shall be calcu-  
43 lated by summing the total residential, commercial, open space,  
44 and industrial taxable property for each municipality as deter-  
45 mined by the Department of Revenue, dividing by the total  
46 number of students within the respective district, thus establishing  
47 the “taxable property available per student.” The taxable property  
48 available per student shall be subtracted from 2,000,000, divided  
49 by the total number of students within the district, and divided by  
50 a factor of 1,000.

51 4) The sum of Base Aid, Median Income Adjustment and Local  
52 District’s Ability to Pay Adjustment shall be calculated and dis-  
53 tributed to each school district. Should the result of this calcula-  
54 tion result in a sum of less than the calculation of determined in  
55 Section 10.b.1., the distribution amount shall be the amount calcu-  
56 lated in Section 10.b.1. This distribution shall be known as  
57 “Chapter 70 Distribution.”

58 Section 10c. The Commissioner of Education shall report to  
59 the Chairmen of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,  
60 Chairmen of Joint committee on Education, Arts and Humanities,  
61 and the Secretary of Administration and Finance the necessary  
62 cost of providing students of regional and vocational public  
63 schools and adequate education on or before, December 31, 2006.  
64 The principal methods which the Commissioner shall use to deter-  
65 mine said cost include, but are not limited to: 1) resource cost  
66 models (RCM)-based on research and/or professional judgments,  
67 2) empirical approaches--deductive inference from exemplary dis-  
68 tricts, 3) econometric modeling--a statistical model and 4) costing  
69 comprehensive school reform models.

70 Section 10d. Until such time the Legislature shall adopt an  
71 alternate method of distributing "Chapter 70" funding to regional  
72 and vocation schools, an annual increase of three-percent shall be  
73 distributed to said school districts based upon the amount received  
74 in Fiscal Year 2005.